

# House File 762 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 762  
BY ABDUL-SAMAD

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a work group relating to the reunification  
2 of an unaccompanied child with the child's parent, guardian,  
3 or custodian following a natural disaster or school  
4 evacuation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.  DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WORK GROUP — NATURAL  
2 DISASTER OR SCHOOL EVACUATION — CHILD REUNIFICATION.

3     1.  The department of education shall convene a work group to  
4 meet during the 2019 legislative interim to examine issues and  
5 develop policy recommendations relating to the reunification of  
6 an unaccompanied child with the child's parent, guardian, or  
7 custodian following a natural disaster or school evacuation.  
8 The work group shall request information from the department  
9 of public safety, the Iowa emergency management directors  
10 association, a police officers association, a firefighters  
11 association, and other agencies or entities as deemed  
12 appropriate.

13    2.  The work group shall be comprised of the following voting  
14 members:

15    a.  The director of the department of education or the  
16 director's designee.

17    b.  The director of the department of human services or the  
18 director's designee.

19    c.  The director of the department of public health or the  
20 director's designee.

21    d.  A representative from the Iowa association of school  
22 boards.

23    e.  A representative from the school administrators of Iowa.

24    f.  A representative from a statewide organization  
25 representing teachers.

26    g.  An administrator of an area education agency.

27    h.  A member of law enforcement.

28    i.  A representative from the department of homeland  
29 security.

30    j.  A representative from the fire marshal's office.

31    k.  Two representatives from the Iowa school safety  
32 alliance.

33    l.  Three representatives appointed by the director of  
34 the department of education, one of which shall be a school  
35 resource officer.

1        3. The membership of the work group shall also include  
2 four members of the general assembly. The legislative members  
3 shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the work group,  
4 with one member to be appointed by each of the following: the  
5 majority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the  
6 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
7 minority leader of the house of representatives.

8       4. The work group shall identify gaps in federal and state  
9 authority related to the federal or state agency responsible  
10 for the reunification of an unaccompanied child with the  
11 child's parent, guardian, or custodian following a natural  
12 disaster or school evacuation. The work group shall also make  
13 recommendations relating to the implementation of an emergency  
14 child reunification team to be activated when the governor has  
15 requested federal funding due to a natural disaster or a school  
16 evacuation.

17       5. The work group shall submit findings, recommendations,  
18 and proposed legislation to the governor and the general  
19 assembly by January 15, 2020.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill directs the department of education to establish  
24 a work group to meet during the 2019 legislative interim to  
25 examine issues and develop policy recommendations relating  
26 to the reunification of an unaccompanied child with the  
27 child's parent, guardian, or custodian after a natural  
28 disaster or school evacuation. The work group shall request  
29 information from the department of public safety, the Iowa  
30 emergency management directors association, a police officers  
31 association, a firefighters association, and other agencies or  
32 entities as deemed appropriate. The work group is directed to  
33 identify gaps in federal and state authority related to the  
34 federal or state agency responsible for the reunification of  
35 an unaccompanied child with the child's parent, guardian, or

1 custodian following a natural disaster or school evacuation.  
2 The work group is required to make recommendations related to  
3 the implementation of an emergency child reunification team to  
4 be activated when the governor requests federal funding related  
5 to a natural disaster or a school evacuation. The work group  
6 is required to submit findings, recommendations, and proposed  
7 legislation to the governor and the general assembly by January  
8 15, 2020.